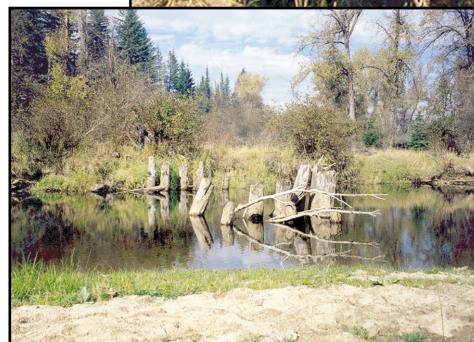
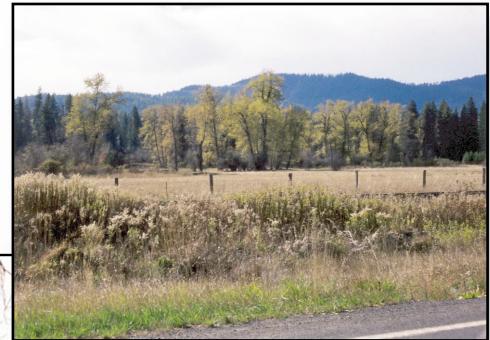


Emerald Creek Garnet

**DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACT
STATEMENT**

**Volume I
November 2003**



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Walla Walla District**

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

$\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	micrograms per cubic meter	SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
ADT ^a	Average Daily Traffic	SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act	TMDL	total maximum daily load
APE	area of potential effect	TSS	total suspended solids
AQD	Air Quality Division	U.S.	United States
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act	USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
BA	Biological Assessment	USC	United States Code
BEA	Bureau of Economic Analysis	USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
BLS	United States Bureau of Labor Statistics	USFS	United States Forest Service
BMP	Best Management Practice	USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
CAA	Clean Air Act	USGS	United States Geological Survey
CBFWA	Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority	V/C	volume-to-capacity
CCC	Civilian Conservation Corps	VOC	volatile organic compound
CDC	Conservation Data Center	VQO	Visual Quality Objective
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality	WRP	Wetland Reserve Program
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations		
cfs	cubic feet per second		
CV	Cost/Valuation		
CWA	Clean Water Act		
dB	decibel		
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement		
DMP	Dredge Mining Permit		
DOT	Department of Transportation		
ECG	Emerald Creek Garnet Ltd.		
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement		
EO	Executive Order		
ESA	Endangered Species Act		
FWCA	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act		
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code		
IDAPA	Idaho Administrative Procedures Act		
IDEQ	Idaho Department of Environmental Quality		
IDFG	Idaho Department of Fish and Game		
IDL	Idaho Department of Lands		
IDWR	Idaho Department of Water Resources		
ITD	Idaho Transportation Department		
L _{dn}	Day-Night Average Sound Level		
LEDPA	least environmentally-damaging practicable alternative		
LGP	Low Ground Pressure		
LWD	large woody debris		
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement		
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding		
mph	miles per hour		
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards		
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act		
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act		
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act		
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service		
NOI	Notice of Intent		
NO _x	nitrogen dioxide		
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System		
NPS	nonpoint source		
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service		
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places		
NTU	Nephelometric Turbidity Unit		
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory		
O ₃	ozone		
OHWL	ordinary high water line		
OHWM	ordinary high water mark		
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration		
PCPI	per capita personal income		
PM10	particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter		
ROD	Record of Decision		
ROI	Region of Influence		
SAIC	Science Applications International Corporation		
SCS	Soil Conservation Service		

**Walla Walla District
Emerald Creek Garnet
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

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Comments: Public comments are sought on this Draft EIS. The official closing date for the receipt of comments is 45 days after the publication date.

Abstract: This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to identify potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and evaluate reasonable and practical alternatives that meet the purpose and need for the project. Emerald Creek Garnet, Ltd. (ECG) proposes to mine garnet reserves within the St. Maries River floodplain near Fernwood, Idaho in Benewah and Shoshone Counties.

To proceed, ECG must obtain a Department of the Army Permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). ECG has mined garnet in 15 permit areas near Fernwood since 1992. There are four to seven years of mining remaining in these permit areas. Therefore, ECG proposes to dredge mine new areas of alluvial deposits of industrial garnet. The area proposed for garnet extraction contains wetlands that would be temporarily filled by construction of isolated berms, topsoil, overburden stockpiles, work pads and other discharges of dredged and fill material.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that the evaluation and issuance of a 404 permit would be considered a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and therefore requires the preparation of an EIS. The USACE is analyzing six alternatives in this DEIS: Alternative 1 – No Action (no change from existing mining); Alternative 2 – Twelve Month Wet Panel Mining, 133 Acres of Wetland Mined; Alternative 3 – Twelve Month Wet and /Dry Panel Mining, 133 Acres of Wetland Mined; Alternative 8 – Oxbow Avoidance, 84.3 Acres of Wetland Mined; Alternative 9 – Oxbow Avoidance, 96.9 Acres of Wetland Mined; and Alternative 10 – Oxbow Avoidance, 108.9 Acres of Wetland Mined.

Emerald Creek Garnet

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Volume I

November 2003

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>		<u>Page</u>
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY		ES-1
1	PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION	1-1
1.1	Introduction.....	1-1
1.2	Purpose and Need.....	1-3
1.2.1	Total Available Reserves	1-3
1.2.2	Market Longevity.....	1-4
1.2.3	Grade Requirements for Target Markets.....	1-4
1.2.4	Mining Efficiency	1-4
1.3	ECG Garnet and Its Use	1-5
1.4	Current Mining Operations	1-9
1.4.1	Authorized Permits	1-9
1.4.2	Historic ECG Employment and Revenues	1-11
1.4.3	Active Permit Areas	1-11
1.4.4	Current Reclamation Activities	1-12
1.5	Need for Environmental Impact Statement	1-13
1.5.1	Regulations and Environmental Impact Statement Process.....	1-13
1.5.2	Summary of Scoping and Relevant Issues	1-15
1.5.3	Applicable Permits and Authorizations	1-15
2.0	DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES.....	2-1
2.1	Preliminary Screening of Potential Mining Areas	2-1
2.1.1	Potential Mineable Garnet Area 1	2-2
2.1.2	Potential Mineable Garnet Area 2	2-2
2.2	Overview of Proposed Action	2-3
2.2.1	Mining Operations	2-4
2.2.2	Best Management Practices and Other Minimization Mitigation Incorporated into Proposed Action	2-7
2.2.2.1	Mining and Reclamation BMPs.....	2-7
2.2.2.2	BMP Implementation and Surface Water Management.....	2-8
2.2.2.3	Pre-flood Shutdown Criteria and Procedures	2-9
2.2.3	Proposed Reclamation, and Committed Mitigation and Wetland Protection	2-9
2.3	Alternatives Development.....	2-10
2.3.1	Timing and Duration of Mining.....	2-11
2.3.2	Mining Methods	2-11
2.3.3	Oxbow Complex Avoidance	2-11
2.3.4	Reclamation Options	2-12
2.4	Alternatives Formulation and Evaluation	2-12
2.5	Mining Alternatives Carried Forward for Analysis	2-21
2.5.1	Alternative 1: No Action.....	2-21
2.5.1.1	Description.....	2-21
2.5.1.2	Evaluation Criteria	2-21

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
2.5.2 Alternative 2: Twelve Month Wet Panel Mining, 133 Acres of Wetland Mined	2-23
2.5.2.1 Description.....	2-23
2.5.2.2 Evaluation Criteria	2-23
2.5.3 Alternative 3: Twelve Month Wet and Dry Panel Mining, 133 Acres of Wetland Mined.....	2-24
2.5.3.1 Description.....	2-24
2.5.3.2 Evaluation Criteria	2-24
2.5.4 Oxbow Avoidance Alternatives	2-25
2.5.4.1 Alternative 8: Oxbow Avoidance, 84.3 Acres of Wetland Mined	2-25
2.5.4.2 Alternative 9: Oxbow Avoidance, 96.9 Acres of Wetland Mined	2-26
2.5.4.3 Alternative 10: Oxbow Avoidance, 108.9 Acres of Wetland Mined	2-31
2.6 Mining Alternatives Eliminated from Further Analysis	2-31
2.6.1 Alternative 4: Twelve Month Dry Panel Mining, 133 Acres of Wetland Mined	2-32
2.6.2 Alternative 5: Other Than High Flow Wet Panel Mining, 133 Acres of Wetland Mined.....	2-32
2.6.3 Alternative 6: Other Than High Flow Wet and Dry Panel Mining, 133 Acres of Wetland Mined	2-35
2.6.4 Alternative 7: Other Than High Flow Dry Panel Mining, 133 Acres of Wetland Mined.....	2-35
2.7 Reclamation Options.....	2-36
2.7.1 Wetland Replacement Options	2-36
2.7.1.1 1:1 On-Site In-Kind Replacement	2-36
2.7.2 Wetland Mitigation Options	2-37
2.7.2.1 On-Site Wetland Enhancement	2-38
2.7.2.2 On-Site Riverbank Enhancement.....	2-39
2.7.2.3 On-Site In-Stream Enhancement, ECG or Other Private Ownership	2-39
2.7.2.4 Off-Site Enhancement, Any Ownership	2-40
2.7.2.5 Off-Site Mitigation Banking	2-40
2.7.2.6 Off-Site Land Acquisition.....	2-41
2.7.3 Wetland Protection Options.....	2-41
2.7.3.1 Short-Term On-Site Perimeter Fencing	2-41
2.7.3.2 Long-Term On-Site Perimeter Fencing.....	2-42
2.7.3.3 Long-Term On-Site Cluster Fencing	2-43
2.7.3.4 Long-Term On-Site Conservation Easement	2-43
2.7.3.5 Long-Term Off-Site Perimeter Fencing	2-44
2.7.3.6 Long-Term Off-Site Conservation Easement	2-44
2.8 Comparative Summary of Environmental Impacts by Alternative	2-45
3 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES	3-1

<i>Section</i>		<i>Page</i>
3.1	Water Resources.....	3-2
	3.1.1 Affected Environment.....	3-2
	3.1.1.1 Surface Hydrology.....	3-2
	3.1.1.2 Groundwater.....	3-9
	3.1.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-12
	3.1.2.1 Alternative 1 - No Action	3-12
	3.1.2.2 Impacts Common to All Alternatives	3-12
	3.1.3 Mitigation.....	3-16
	3.1.3.1 During Mining	3-16
	3.1.3.2 Post-Mining.....	3-17
3.2	Wetlands.....	3-19
	3.2.1 Affected Environment.....	3-19
	3.2.1.1 Baseline Surveys	3-19
	3.2.1.2 Wetlands Descriptions/Functions and Values	3-25
	3.2.1.3 Past Activities in Wetland Areas	3-25
	3.2.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-26
	3.2.2.1 Alternative 1 - No Action	3-26
	3.2.2.2 Impacts Common to All Alternatives	3-26
	3.2.2.3 Impacts Unique to Specific Alternatives.....	3-27
	3.2.3 Mitigation.....	3-28
	3.2.3.1 Avoidance.....	3-28
	3.2.3.2 Minimization	3-28
	3.2.3.3 Compensatory Mitigation.....	3-33
3.3	Vegetation	3-42
	3.3.1 Affected Environment.....	3-42
	3.3.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-45
	3.3.2.1 Alternative 1 - No Action	3-45
	3.3.2.2 Impacts Common to All Alternatives	3-45
	3.3.2.3 Impacts Unique to Specific Alternatives.....	3-46
	3.3.3 Mitigation.....	3-47
	3.3.3.1 Prior to Mining	3-47
	3.3.3.2 During Mining	3-48
	3.3.3.3 Post Mining	3-48
3.4	Wildlife.....	3-48
	3.4.1 Affected Environment.....	3-48
	3.4.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-49
	3.4.2.1 Alternative 1 - No Action	3-49
	3.4.2.2 Impacts Common to All Alternatives	3-55
	3.4.2.3 Impacts Unique to Specific Alternatives.....	3-55
	3.4.3 Mitigation.....	3-55
	3.4.3.1 Prior to Mining	3-59
	3.4.3.2 During Mining	3-59
	3.4.3.3 Post Mining	3-59
3.5	Fisheries.....	3-59
	3.5.1 Affected Environment.....	3-59
	3.5.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-61

<i>Section</i>		<i>Page</i>
	3.5.2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action	3-61
	3.5.2.2 Impacts Common to All Alternatives	3-61
	3.5.2.3 Impacts Unique to Specific Alternatives.....	3-62
3.6	3.5.3 Mitigation.....	3-62
3.6	Earth Resources	3-63
3.6	3.6.1 Affected Environment.....	3-63
	3.6.1.1 Geology and Physiography.....	3-63
	3.6.1.2 Soil Types	3-64
	3.6.1.3 Garnet Reserves.....	3-64
3.6	3.6.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-65
	3.6.2.1 Alternative 1 - No Action	3-65
	3.6.2.2 Impacts Common to All Alternatives	3-65
	3.6.2.3 Impacts Unique to Specific Alternatives.....	3-66
3.6	3.6.3 Mitigation.....	3-66
	3.6.3.1 During Mining	3-66
	3.6.3.2 Post-Mining.....	3-67
3.7	Land Use and Ownership	3-67
3.7	3.7.1 Affected Environment.....	3-67
	3.7.1.1 Land Use.....	3-67
	3.7.1.2 Land Ownership.....	3-68
3.7	3.7.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-70
	3.7.2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action	3-70
	3.7.2.2 Impacts Common to all Alternatives	3-70
	3.7.2.3 Impacts Unique to Specific Alternatives.....	3-70
3.7	3.7.3 Mitigation.....	3-71
3.8	Traffic, Transportation, and Access.....	3-71
3.8	3.8.1 Affected Environment.....	3-71
3.8	3.8.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-72
	3.8.2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action	3-72
	3.8.2.2 Impacts Common to All Action Alternatives	3-75
	3.8.2.3 Impacts Unique to Specific Alternatives.....	3-76
3.8	3.8.3 Mitigation.....	3-76
	3.8.3.1 Prior To and During Mining	3-76
	3.8.3.2 Post Mining	3-77
3.9	Cultural Resources	3-77
3.9	3.9.1 Affected Environment.....	3-77
	3.9.1.1 Historical Setting	3-77
	3.9.1.2 Cultural Resources Investigations.....	3-79
3.9	3.9.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-79
	3.9.2.1 Alternative 1 - No Action	3-79
	3.9.2.2 Impacts Common to All Alternatives	3-79
	3.9.2.3 Impacts Unique to Specific Alternatives.....	3-80
3.9	3.9.3 Mitigation.....	3-80
3.10	Socioeconomics.....	3-80
3.10	3.10.1 Affected Environment.....	3-80
	3.10.1.1 Economic Activity	3-80

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
3.10.1.2 Population	3-81
3.10.1.3 Housing.....	3-82
3.10.1.4 Public Finance.....	3-82
3.10.1.5 ECG Employment and Revenues	3-82
3.10.1.6 Environmental Justice	3-83
3.10.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-84
3.10.2.1 Alternative 1 – No-Action	3-84
3.10.2.2 Impacts Common to All Alternatives	3-85
3.10.2.3 Impacts Unique to Specific Alternatives.....	3-85
3.10.3 Mitigation.....	3-86
3.11 Visual Resources	3-86
3.11.1 Affected Environment.....	3-86
3.11.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-87
3.11.2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action	3-87
3.11.2.2 Impacts Common to All Alternatives	3-87
3.11.2.3 Impacts Unique to Specific Alternatives.....	3-87
3.11.3 Mitigation.....	3-88
3.11.3.1 Prior To and During Mining	3-88
3.11.3.2 Post-Mining.....	3-88
3.12 Noise/Air Quality	3-88
3.12.1 Affected Environment.....	3-89
3.12.1.1 Noise	3-89
3.12.1.2 Air Quality.....	3-90
3.12.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-90
3.12.2.1 Noise	3-90
3.12.2.2 Air Quality.....	3-90
3.12.3 Mitigation.....	3-91
3.12.3.1 Noise	3-91
3.12.3.2 Air Quality.....	3-91
3.13 Hazardous Materials	3-91
3.13.1 Affected Environment.....	3-91
3.13.2 Environmental Consequences.....	3-93
3.13.2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action	3-93
3.13.2.2 Impacts Common to All Alternatives	3-93
3.13.2.3 Impacts Unique to Specific Alternatives.....	3-94
3.13.3 Mitigation.....	3-94
3.14 Cumulative Impacts.....	3-94
3.14.1 Introduction	3-94
3.14.2 Cumulative ROI	3-95
3.14.3 Past and Present Actions.....	3-95
3.14.4 Reasonably Foreseeable Future Actions	3-97
3.14.5 Cumulative Effects by Resource.....	3-99
3.14.5.1 Water Resources.....	3-99
3.14.5.2 Wetlands	3-99
3.14.5.3 Vegetation.....	3-100
3.14.5.4 Wildlife.....	3-100

<i>Section</i>		<i>Page</i>
3.14.5.5	Fisheries	3-100
3.14.5.6	Earth Resources.....	3-101
3.14.5.7	Land Use and Ownership	3-101
3.14.5.8	Traffic, Transportation, and Access	3-101
3.14.5.9	Cultural Resources	3-101
3.14.5.10	Socioeconomics.....	3-101
3.14.5.11	Visual Resources.....	3-102
3.14.5.12	Noise/Air Quality	3-102
3.14.5.13	Hazardous.....	3-102
3.15	Applicant Proposed Mitigation Measures	3-102
3.16	Irreversible or Irretrievable Commitment of Resources.....	3-102
3.17	Short-Term Uses and Long-Term Productivity	3-105

4	COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATUTES AND REGULATIONS.....	4-1
4.1	National Environmental Policy Act.....	4-1
4.2	Wetlands Protection	4-1
4.2.1	Section 404 of the Clean Water Act	4-1
4.2.2	Executive Order 11990 Protection of Wetlands	4-2
4.2.3	Executive Order 19988 of 1977, Floodplain Management.....	4-2
4.2.4	Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) Guidelines	4-2
4.3	Endangered and Threatened Species and Critical Habitat.....	4-3
4.3.1	Endangered Species Act.....	4-3
4.4	Fish and Wildlife Conservation.....	4-3
4.4.1	Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.....	4-3
4.4.2	Migratory Bird Conservation Act	4-4
4.4.3	Lacey Act of 1900.....	4-4
4.4.4	Executive Order 13186 of January 10, 2001	4-4
4.5	Heritage Conservation.....	4-4
4.5.1	National Historic Preservation Act	4-4
4.5.2	Archaeological Resources Protection Act	4-4
4.5.3	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.....	4-5
4.5.4	American Indian Religious Freedom Act	4-5
4.5.5	Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments.....	4-5
4.6	State, Area-Wide, and Local Plan and Program Consistency.....	4-5
4.7	Floodplains.....	4-6
4.8	Farmland Protection.....	4-6
4.8.1	Farmland Protection Policy Act.....	4-6
4.8.2	CEQ Memorandum, August 11, 1990, on Analysis of Impacts on Prime or Unique Agricultural Lands	4-6
4.9	Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	4-6
4.10	Air Quality.....	4-6
4.11	Federal Water Pollution Control Act (Clean Water Act)	4-7
4.11.1	Section 401 of the Clean Water Act	4-7
4.11.2	Section 402 of the Clean Water Act	4-7

<i>Section</i>	<i>Page</i>
4.12 Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low Income Populations.....	4-8
4.13 Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health and Safety Risks.....	4-8
5 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.....	5-1
5.1 Introduction.....	5-1
5.2 Public and Agency Scoping Process.....	5-2
5.2.1 Notice of Intent.....	5-2
5.2.2 Open House and Scoping Meeting.....	5-2
5.3 Consultation.....	5-6
5.4 Public and Agency Comment Period.....	5-6
5.4.1 Notice of Availability.....	5-6
5.4.2 Public Hearings.....	5-6
6 PREPARERS AND CONTRIBUTORS	6-1
6.1 Baseline and Supporting Documents.....	6-1
6.2 Environmental Impact Statement	6-2
7 REFERENCES.....	7-1

FIGURES

<u>Figure</u>		<u>Page</u>
1-1	Vicinity Map	1-2
1-2	Mining Areas - Reserve Locations	1-7
2-1	Proposed Mining Areas and Wetland Acreage.....	2-5
2-2	Areas Remaining to be Mined Under Alternative 1 - No Action.....	2-22
2-3	Effects of Oxbow Avoidance on Wetlands, Mineable Acreage, and Reserves.....	2-29
3.1-1	St. Maries River Watershed Elevation	3-3
3.1-2	Average Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation at St. Maries, ID.....	3-5
3.1-3	Average Monthly Streamflow	3-6
3.1-4	FEMA 100-yr Floodplain for St. Maries Watershed	3-7
3.1-5	FEMA 100-yr Floodplain for Project Area	3-8
3.1-6	General Groundwater Lithology	3-10
3.1-7	Groundwater and Surface Water Elevation Fluctuations.....	3-11
3.1-8	Groundwater Gradient Groundwater Effect on Wetlands.....	3-11
3.1-9	Groundwater Fluctuations as Measured at the Four Monitoring Wells.....	3-12
3.1-10	Flood Exceedence Chart	3-15
3.2-1	Wetland Types Occurring Within St. Maries River Project Area	3-21
3.7-1	St. Maries Land Ownership Map.....	3-69
3.8-1	Conceptual Temporary Road Layout	3-73
3.12-1	Examples of Outdoor Day-Night Average Sound Levels in dB	3-89

TABLES

<u>Table</u>		<u>Page</u>
ES-1	Environmental Consequences Comparison	ES-8
1-1	ECG Remaining Mining Years.....	1-3
1-2	ECG Current Products.....	1-6
1-3	Dredge Mining Permits Authorized for ECG.....	1-10
1-4	Average Employee Composition	1-11
1-5	ECG Active Permit Areas	1-12
1-6	ECG Reclaimed Landscape Through May 2003	1-13
1-7	Potential Issues Associated with Proposed Mining.....	1-16
1-8	Permits and Authorizing Agencies for the Emerald Creek Garnet Mining Project.....	1-18
2-1	Oxbow Complex Characteristics.....	2-13
2-2	Reclamation, Mitigation, and Protection Options	2-12
2-3	Alternatives Summary	2-15
2-4	Mining Alternatives Considered and Carried Forward	2-19
2-5	Oxbow Avoidance Alternatives.....	2-27
2-6	Mining Alternatives Considered and Eliminated	2-33
2-7	Comparison of Environmental Impacts, No Action and Action Alternatives	2-47
3.1-1	Project Area Tributary Characteristics.....	3-4
3.1-2	Site Event Streamflow Values (cfs).....	3-6

Emerald Creek Garnet Draft EIS

3.1-3	Groundwater Monitoring Sites.....	3-9
3.2-1	Summary of All Palustrine Wetland Areas in Project Area Based on Wetland Type.....	3-23
3.2-2	Oxbow Complexes Within the Project Area.....	3-25
3.2-3	Total Direct Impacts to Wetland Types by Alternative.....	3-26
3.2-4	Conceptual Reclamation Sequence for Completed Mining Unit	3-39
3.2-5	Acreage of Reclaimed Wetlands by Ownership.....	3-41
3.3-1	Summary of Vegetation Communities in the Project Area.....	3-44
3.3-2	Federally Listed Plant Species Potentially Occurring in the Project Area.....	3-45
3.3-3	Potential Impacts to Federally Listed Plant Species from Garnet Mining Alternatives.....	3-47
3.4-1	Selected Common Wildlife Species Using Habitat Types in the Region of Influence.....	3-50
3.4-2	Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species With Potential to Occur Within or Near the Proposed Project Area	3-53
3.4-3	Potential Impacts to Wildlife Groups.....	3-56
3.4-4	Potential Impacts to Special Status Wildlife Species	3-57
3.5-1	Selected Common Fish Species of the St. Maries River Watershed	3-60
3.5-2	Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Fish Species With Potential to Occur Within or Near the Proposed Project Area	3-61
3.5-3	Potential Impacts to Special Status Fish Species	3-62
3.7-2	ECG Ownership.....	3-70
3.8-1	State Highway 3 Between Fernwood and Clarkia ADT Volume Projection Screen - Years 2000, 2007 and 2022	3-72
3.8-2	Trip Requirements and Access Points to State Highway 3.....	3-76
3.10-1	Selected Demographic Information by County	3-82
3.10-2	ECG Employment, Salaries and Sales (1994-2002).....	3-83
3.10-3	Minority and Low-Income Populations (2000).....	3-84
3.13-1	On-Site Hazardous Materials: Quantities Stored and Used	3-93
3.14-1	Future Road Construction and Maintenance Projects	3-98
3.15-1	Reclamation/Mitigation Action Alternatives	3-104
5.2-1	Scoping Comment Letters.....	5-3
5.2-2	Summary of Scoping Issues and Comments	5-4
6.1-1	Preparers of Supporting Documents.....	6-1
6.2-1	DEIS Preparers and Contributors	6-2

